

CARR- 578
Groff-Zile-Dell House
30 Manchester Avenue
Westminster
Private

c. 1905

It seems reasonable to suppose that when Westminster was founded its greatest activity was near this site at the east end of town. Here Main Street met the roads to Georgetown and York, which doubtless carried the bulk of whatever trade there was. However, the city did not grow here. Instead it expanded to the west, as trade to Baltimore surpassed the trade to the Potomac. Thus the land abutting the York Road to the north of this once-busy intersection remained undeveloped, no doubt distressing its speculative-minded owners.

But by the 1880s and '90s, those early owners' hopes for the area were realized to some extent as the land was annexed into the town, subdivided, and, finally, built on. The houses that were built here along the York Road and Webster Street in Yingling's and Everhart's Additions were generally modest. Perhaps these unassuming houses, exemplified by the one built by the Groff family at what is now 30 Manchester Avenue reflect the lessened expectations held for the area. Certainly the change in the once-great trade route's name from York Road to Manchester Road implies a certain diminished importance: the road no longer was thought of as leading to a bustling Pennsylvania city but, rather, to a snoozing Carroll County village.

The house, when originally constructed between 1904 and 1910, was two stories high and two bays wide, of five-course common bond brick, with splayed jack arches above its 2/2 sash windows. Facing east onto Manchester Avenue,

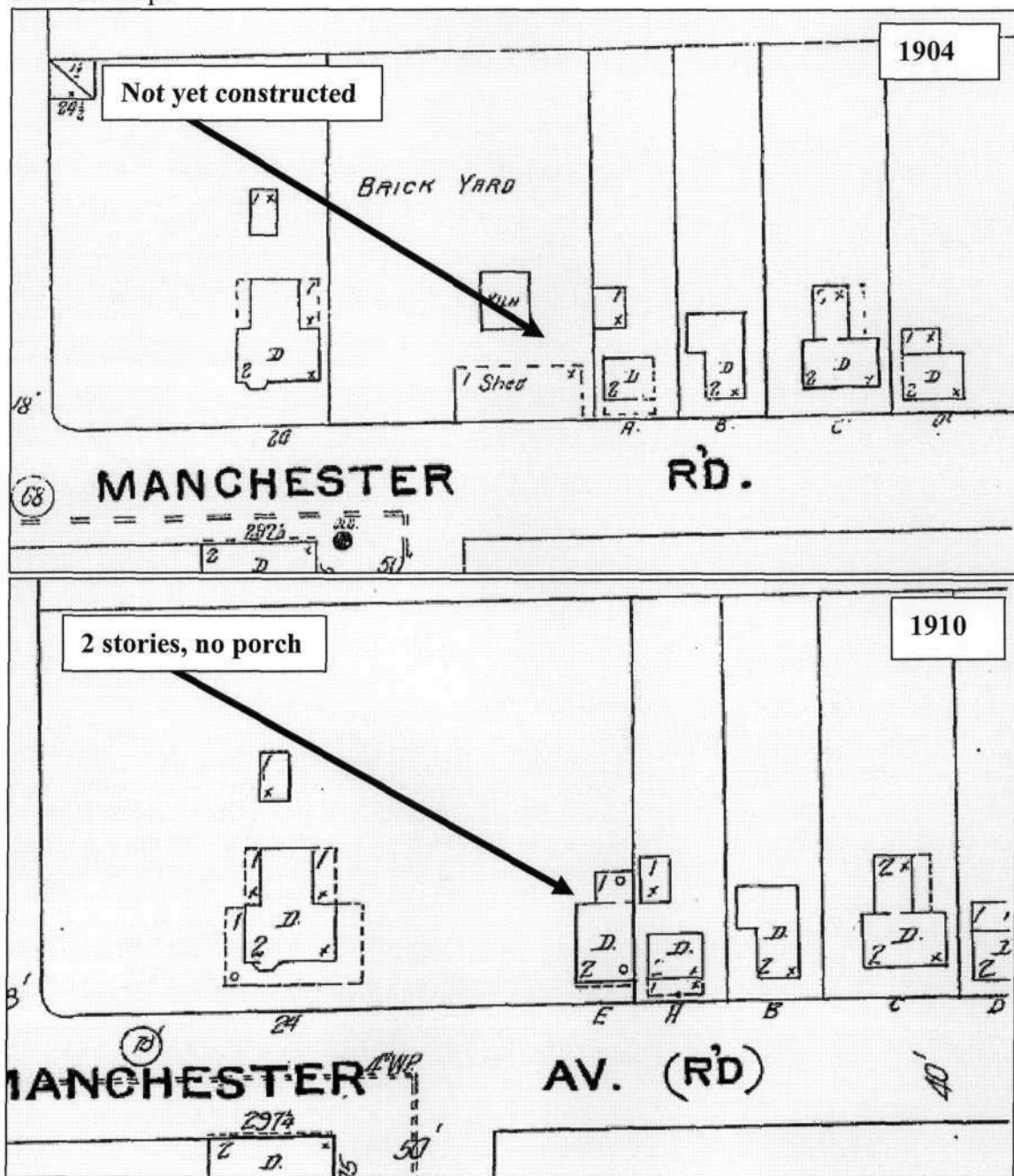
the principal entrance is in the north bay. The house is three bays deep, with windows on the south façade. However, the house was constructed abutting 32 Manchester Avenue on the north side. A one-story rear addition projected from the north bay of the west façade. By 1918 the house had acquired a standing-seam metal hip-roofed porch with Tuscan columns which wrapped around the south and east sides, and by 1927 had been raised to three stories with a shed roof. Two 2-light windows pierce the added half story on the east façade, with slightly shorter brick arches. At some later time, a one-bay shed-roofed addition was infilled in the south bay of the west façade.

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30 Manchester Avenue, Westminster

Sanborn Maps

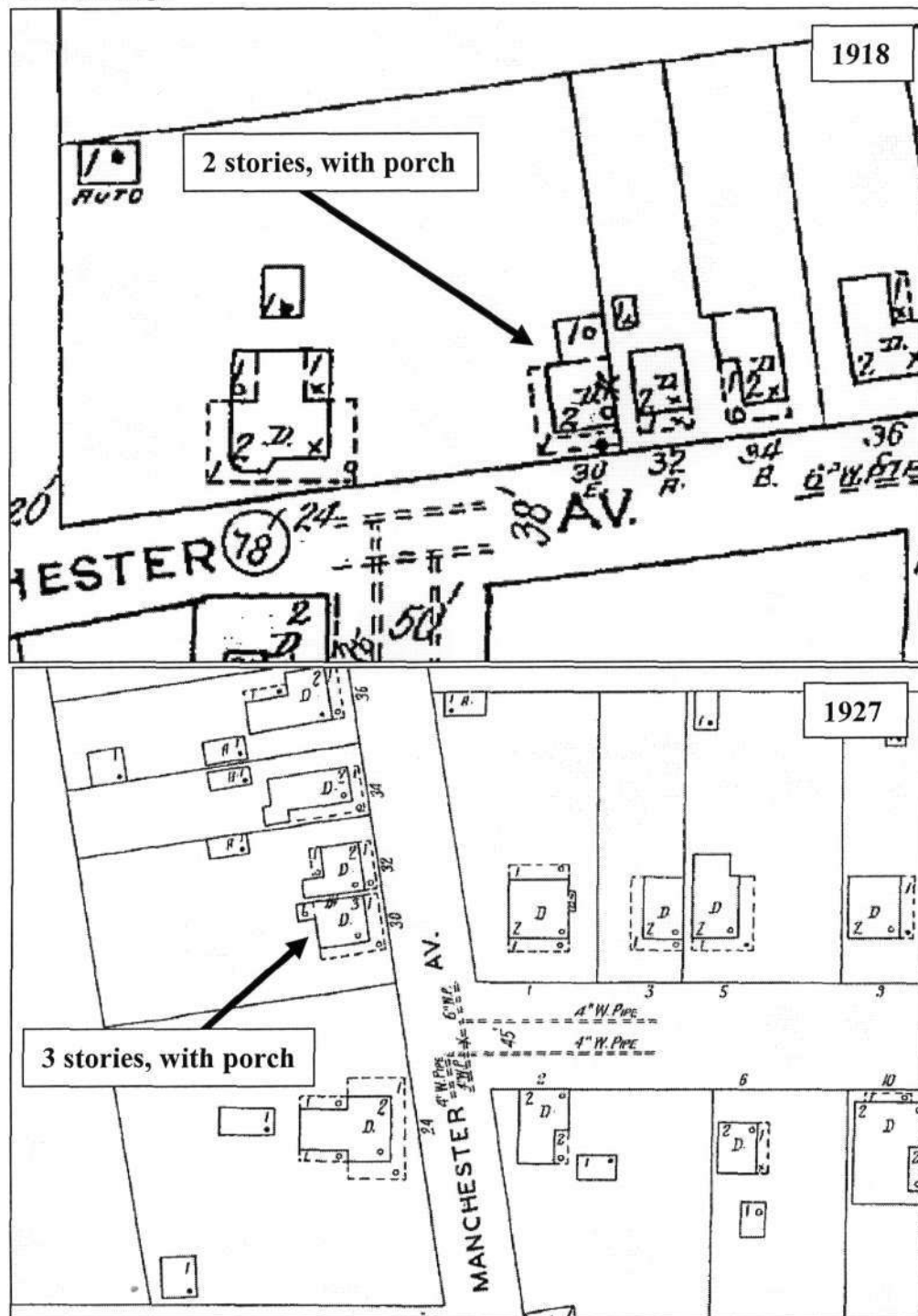


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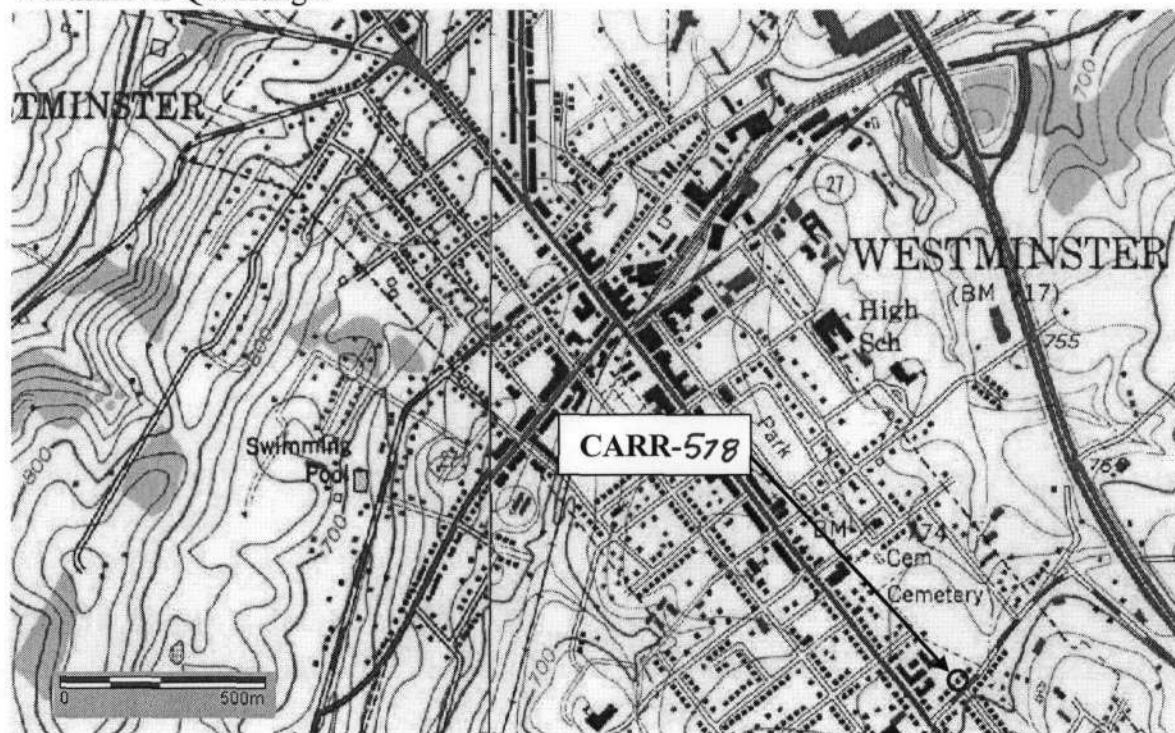


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Groff-Zile-Dell House

30 Manchester Avenue

Westminster Quadrangle



1991-95 Aerial Photo (Tax Map 107, p. 1059)



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Groff-Zile-Dell House

30 Manchester Avenue

Westminster

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